

# Honey Lake

## Tall Whitetop (*Lepidium latifolium*) Distribution and Control

**Tall whitetop** (*Lepidium latifolium*), also known as perennial pepperweed, is a multi-stemmed, perennial herb that **invades** alkaline **wetlands** and adjacent uplands throughout California. It is a particularly troublesome invasive species in **Lassen County**, California where it covers an estimated 64,000 acres, of which 20,000 acres have converted to monocultures.

Heavy infestations of tall whitetop are **difficult to control**. Field observations suggest that plants may not tolerate an extended period of flooding during the growing season. Herbicides, especially when integrated with mechanical methods, are effective for **controlling** tall whitetop **infestations**. There are several herbicides available for use on tall whitetop, but there are restrictions on their use in specific environments.

Honey Lake Conservation Team biologists have compiled a composite map of **tall whitetop infestations** in the **Honey Lake vicinity**. The map contains distribution data collected by federal land management agencies. It also contains location data for tall whitetop infestations on Honey Lake that were gathered by the Carson Wandering Skipper (CWS) butterfly survey team from June 1–30, 2004.

The primary and secondary sources of tall whitetop infestations at Honey Lake are the **delta** of the **Susan River** in the northeastern corner of the Lake and the Long Valley Creek drainage at the **southwest corner** of the **Lake**, respectively. Both seeds and rootstocks (rhizomes) can enter the Lake via spring flood events and colonize new areas of the lakebed.

Tall whitetop is most **prevalent** along the Susan River and its drainage basin adjacent to Honey Lake. The **densest infestations** occur along the north shore of the Lake, especially near the **Honey Lake Wildlife Area–Fleming Unit** where Rob Wilson (UCCE) has several control test plots located in former monocultures of this invasive species. There is a sizable tall whitetop infestation north of **Amedee Hot Springs** on the East Shore of the Lake.



Tall whitetop **infestations** were **mapped** along the shoreline of Honey Lake during the CWS survey this season. However, none of these infestations are as large or problematic as those that occur on adjacent lands. **Priority** areas that will need to be treated for tall whitetop infestations are: **1)** those that are **migration** routes for further infestations (delta of the **Susan River** and the mouth of **Long Valley Creek**) and **2)** those that **threaten** CWS habitat (the **eastern shore** of the Lake with the highest density CWS population, the **Cross Depot Access** area and the north tip of the Island).